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
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Scherzo No. 3 (Chopin)

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The **Scherzo No. 3, Op. 39**, in **C# minor** by **Frédéric Chopin**, completed in 1839, was written in the **abandoned monastery** of **Valldemossa** on the Balearic island of **Majorca**, Spain.^[1] This is the most terse, ironic, and tightly constructed of the four scherzi, with an almost **Beethovenian** grandeur.

Frédéric Chopin dedicated this composition to one of his closest pupils, [Adolphe Gutmann](#).^[2]

Structure [\[edit source \]](#)

The piece begins in the key of C♯ minor, then moves to D♭ major, and returns to C♯ minor, concluding with a Picardy third. The composition opens with an almost Lisztian introduction, leading to a subject in octaves of pent-up energy. The key changes to D♭ major, with a chorale-like subject, interspersed with delicate falling arpeggios. Louis Kentner thinks of it as "a Wagnerian melody of astonishing beauty, recalling the sound of tubas, harps and all the apocalyptic orchestra of Valhalla."^[*citation needed*]

It begins with an introduction progressing into the fierce main theme. This is particularly difficult to perform, due to the technique needed to accurately and quickly execute the running octave patterns. The scherzo then moves into a transition section that leads back to the main theme. The following, singing style (cantabile) section is in D \flat major. The main theme and its sequences begin with strong chords that hold the melody followed by a downward flutter of notes. There follows a brief section consisting of a series of [arpeggios](#). The elements of this lyrical section repeat themselves a few times and the piece then moves back into the main theme.

References [[edit source](#)]

1. ^ Niecks, Frederick (1973). *Frederick Chopin as a man and musician, Volume 2* . Cooper Square Publishers. p. 28. ISBN 0815404786.
2. ^ "Music analysis" . Ourchopin.com. Retrieved 2014-05-03.

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- **Scherzo No.3:** Scores at the [International Music Score Library Project](#)

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